

The Salish Sea: Historic Conditions

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Historic ecological baseline surveys commonly fail to utilize available data contained in non-ecological documents such as diaries, log books, and maps. For example, diaries often contain shell-fishing locations, logbooks commonly reference observed Indigenous fishing locations, and maps display *Ostrea lurida* (Olympia oyster) reefs. This oversight limits restoration projects in lands formerly occupied by Indigenous Nations and can prevent ecosystem based conservation programs of terrestrial and aquatic habitats controlled by Indigenous People. To assist in the development of restoration and conservation actions that are historically accurate and culturally dynamic, we created a framework for extracting ecologically relevant data from non-ecological documents in a form that can be exported to a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for integration into a systems-based restoration or conservation programs. This procedure also provides added benefit to those charged with restoring systems, altered by industrial and commercial activity, to a state more in keeping with ecological sustainability. In the following presentation we discuss the details of our methods and present the results of a pilot study undertaken in the Northern Straits Salish Historic Area in the North Puget Sound region of Washington State.